

What is Vocational Rehabilitation?

Vocational Rehabilitation Services assists people with disabilities in making informed career choices and utilizing available support services to prepare for, secure, retain or regain employment.

A person who is eligible for Vocational Rehabilitation Services (VRS) works with a VR Counselor to select a vocational goal, based on his/her interests and abilities, and identify the services which will be needed to achieve the vocational goal. He/she has the right to be involved in planning his/her own program of rehabilitation, including making informed choices about the vocational goal and services. Services are initiated in the individual's home community whenever possible, through partnerships with local agencies, rehabilitation programs, and employers.

The Vocational Rehabilitation Process

Working as a partner with the VR Counselor, you will:

- complete an application for services
- participate in an assessment of your disability and its impact on your employability
- develop an Individualized Plan for Employment (if eligible)
- receive services identified in your plan
- achieve your vocational goal.

If necessary, your VR Counselor will provide post-employment follow-up services to help you maintain employment.

Applying for Vocational Rehabilitation

You have the right to an assessment of your eligibility for Vocational Rehabilitation services. Visit the VR office located nearest your home, where you can meet with a VR Counselor and complete an application.

During your visit, the VR Counselor may ask you questions about your disability. The VR Counselor must have documentation that you have a disability that limits the type of work you can do, and that you require Vocational Rehabilitation services to prepare for, secure, retain or regain employment. If there is not enough information available, you may be asked to attend a medical examination. Records such as school transcripts, work history, military records, or social security information may also be needed to help plan your rehabilitation program.

Who is Eligible?

An individual is eligible for Vocational Rehabilitation services if:

- the individual has a physical or mental impairment
- the impairment creates or causes a substantial impediment to employment
- the individual requires Vocational Rehabilitation services to prepare for, secure, retain or regain employment.

A determination of eligibility for Vocational Rehabilitation services will be made within 60 days of the application date, unless both you and your Counselor agree to extend the determination for a specified period of time.

The eligibility decision is made without regard to race, color, creed, religion, sex, age, disability, national origin, or ancestry.

Some Services That May Be Provided

- Evaluations that may include medical, psychological, vocational, and other specialized examinations, as required
- School to work transition planning
- Vocational counseling and guidance
- Diagnosis and treatment of physical and mental impairments
- Rehabilitation technology services
- Job training and coaching
- Assistance with post-secondary training
- Maintenance for additional basic living costs resulting from program participation
- Training to improve job seeking skills
- Assistance with obtaining equipment and/or licenses for a job
- Job placement and follow-up on the job to assure success
- Supported employment
- Post employment services

Who Pays for Vocational Rehabilitation Services?

Before authorizing vocational rehabilitation funds to pay for most services, the VR Counselor will first look to see if the services, or funding to obtain them, are available from other agencies or programs. You may be required to apply to other programs to obtain the necessary services for your rehabilitation program. However, the following Vocational Rehabilitation services can be provided without consideration of other resources:

- medical, psychological, vocational, and specialized examinations required to evaluate rehabilitation potential
- counseling and guidance
- referral services
- personal or work adjustment training
- on-the-job training
- job placement (including supported employment); and/or
- follow-up services.

Transition from School to Work

Vocational Rehabilitation Services assists students who have disabilities in planning and preparing for work or other training after high school leading to employment.

Students and/or parents will receive written information regarding Vocational Rehabilitation Services. Public high schools will work closely with Vocational Rehabilitation Services in identifying students who may be eligible for Vocational Rehabilitation services. The VR Counselor can be available for advocacy and consultative services.

Prior to the student's last year of high school, the VR Counselor participates in a school case conference committee meeting to determine what services the student may need and how to obtain them. The VR Counselor discusses Vocational Rehabilitation Services with the student and his/her family, and determines if the student is interested in applying for services.

Supported Employment

Through the Supported Employment program, Vocational Rehabilitation Services place individuals with the most significant disabilities in competitive jobs, or in jobs leading toward competitive work and arranges for qualified job coaches/trainers to provide ongoing support services to help them maintain employment. The employer is contacted monthly and the employee is visited twice per month, at or away from the work site, to discuss any issues threatening the employee's ability to remain on the job.

The person may also receive assistance with transportation to and from work, opening a checking and savings account, learning to budget, locating accessible housing, and learning to cope with the activities of daily living during or after working hours.

For more information about Vocational Rehabilitation Services, or the location of the VR office nearest you, visit www.VRS.IN.gov.

The purpose of Vocational Rehabilitation Services is to assist people with disabilities to obtain gainful employment.

This program is administered by Vocational Rehabilitation Services of the Division of Disability and Rehabilitative Services, a part of the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration.



State of Indiana
Family and Social Services Administration

402 W. WASHINGTON STREET, ROOM W453
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204

www.IN.gov/fssa

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